



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEW YORK MAN SENTENCED FOR PASSPORT FRAUD

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono announced that Luis Ernesto Vallejos of Queens, New York was sentenced before Chief Judge Paul Barbadoro for filing a false passport application with the U.S. State Department. Vallejos was sentenced to one year of probation and faces deportation.

Vallejos, a Panamanian citizen, attempted to obtain a United States passport by giving a false name on his passport application and falsely stating that he was born in the Canal Zone, which at the time of his birth was a U.S. Territory. Vallejos' passport application was received and reviewed by the National Passport Center in Portsmouth. Vallejos was then indicted by a federal grand jury sitting in Concord, with passport fraud and making a false statement to an agency of the federal government. Federal agents arrested Vallejos on June 25th in New York City in connection with this indictment.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono highly commended the U. S. Department of State Diplomatic Security Service for what he termed the "exceptionally diligent and efficient" handling of the investigation, which is part of the government's "Operation Checkmate" initiative.

This case was investigated by the Diplomatic Security Service of the U.S. State Department. This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark A. Irish.